

(c) The following steps are taken to increase domestic coal production to reduce the gap between demand and supply of coal:—

1. 97 mining projects are envisaged to be undertaken in Xth Plan to produce incremental output. New projects will also be undertaken during XIth Plan.
2. Production from the existing and completed projects is planned to be enhanced by:—
 - (i) Improvement in equipment utilization
 - (ii) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines
 - (iii) Timely implementation of projects
 - (iv) All new mines are being planned with mechanization.
 - (v) Increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines.
3. Allocation of captive coal blocks to public/private sector consumers for captive end use.

Quality of telecom services in Orissa

279. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa is among the four worst States as far as quality of telecom services is concerned;

(b) whether there are more than 800 service providers in the country, but majority of them provide poor quality service; and

(c) if so, the action plan of Government to address these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: (a) As per the quarterly Performance Monitoring Report (PMR) published by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for the quarter ending 30.09.06 for basic and cellular mobile service providers, the quality of service being provided by service providers in Orissa is at a comparable level with the Quality of Service provided by service providers in other service areas.

(b) As of 30th September, 2006, 129 service providers were providing

basic service (wireless) and cellular mobile service and 73 service providers were providing basic service (wireline). The quarterly PMR for the quarter ending 30.09.06 received from these service providers show that some of the service providers are not meeting the benchmarks for some of the parameters in some of the service areas.

(c) Following steps have been taken by the Government for improving the quality of telecom services:

- (i) Holding periodic meetings with the telecom service providers.
- (ii) Holding periodic meetings with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and the private operators to facilitate provision of interconnection.
- (iii) Continuous efforts to co-ordinate and release additional spectrum from existing users.
- (iv) Pursuing with local authorities for expeditious clearance of cell sites.

Quirky roaming rates

280. SHRI DARA SINGH:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that currently different operators levy different roaming charges in the country with 'quirky' roaming rates;

(b) whether Cellular Phone Users Association of India (CUAI) has pointed out this anomaly to TRAI;

(c) whether Government propose to direct TRAI to frame specific rules and regulations to fix the roaming charges when country's leading private cellular operator Bharti Airtel is reportedly having 123 per cent growth in quarterly net profit of Rs. 1,215.00 crore for the quarter ending December 31, 2006; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken to protect the right of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS